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16 June 1960

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Copy No. C 68

CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 40
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: NM 70-2
DATE: 9 JUN 1960
REVIEWER:



State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A005100400001-0

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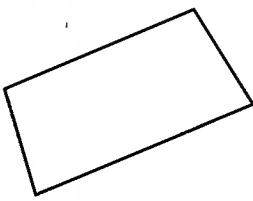
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC



II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Algeria-France: De Gaulle's address on 14 June was conciliatory in tone and will probably stimulate new efforts to bring about talks on a cease-fire in Algeria. In Paris, De Gaulle's assurances to the rebel leadership have offset some of the pessimism generated by speeches last March in which De Gaulle assured the army of a continuing role in Algerian affairs, and stressed pacification. Initial reaction among rebel sympathizers in Morocco and Tunisia has been favorable. The rebel provisional government, now meeting in Tunis, will probably express qualified approval of De Gaulle's remarks, while reiterating its opposition to any surrender of arms or to any partition under De Gaulle's self-determination program. [redacted]

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Belgian Congo: The selection of Patrice Lumumba to form a government--he claims to have assembled the necessary legislative majority--will be unlikely to halt political instability in the colony. Many European residents will be disillusioned by the authorities' seeming capitulation to Lumumba, who had threatened "dire action" if he were not chosen, and many African groups oppose him. In Leopoldville and Katanga provinces, separatist sentiment continues strong. The Abako party in Leopoldville has proposed the establishment of a new province in the lower Congo as its own special preserve; threats of secession by the influential Conakat party in Katanga Province prompted Belgian authorities, on 14 June, to declare a state of emergency there. [redacted]

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*Japan: (Information as of 0400, EDT 16 June) Intensive political maneuvering is continuing in Japan and the decision on a plan to recess the Diet during the President's visit is now reported to be in the hands of the executives of the governing Liberal Democratic party. The law provides that a recess requires the concurrent decisions of both houses. The timing and length of any recess would presumably be determined by the resolution put before the two houses. If a decision is made to recess the Diet, the majority position of the government party should enable it to obtain approval for the length of the recess it wants. The date on which the security treaty would be automatically ratified would accordingly be extended for the number of days the Diet is in recess. There are some indications, however, that party leaders might keep the Diet in session. This would assure ratification of the treaty on 19 June, the day the President arrives in Tokyo. Late press reports from Tokyo indicate that the situation has deteriorated to the point where consideration is being given by the government to cancellation of the President's visit. Demonstrations near the Diet have been renewed.

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III. WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

The Watch Committee conclusions remain unchanged from those of last week.

Lumumba Named to Form Congo Government

Brussels' action in asking National Congo movement leader Patrice Lumumba to attempt to form a government appears unlikely to halt political instability in the period prior to the colony's independence on 30 June. Although Lumumba claims to have the support of a majority of the 137-seat legislature, groups opposing him are numerous and vocal.

The choice of Lumumba appears to have been dictated by reasons of expediency. Resident Congo Minister Van Der Meersch indicated to American officials in early June that he believed it safer to give Lumumba the premiership than to turn to a weakly joined coalition of moderates open to the charge of being Belgian puppets. Although Lumumba's remarks since being invited to form a government have been conciliatory in tone, Belgian officials probably hope that his government, if actually formed, will ultimately give way to a coalition of moderates.

In any case, the investiture of Lumumba--in combination with partisan maneuvering for control of various provincial assemblies--could increase secessionist sentiment in the Congo. In contrast to Lumumba's espousal of a strong central government, the influential Abako party in Leopoldville Province has petitioned King Baudouin to permit it to form a new semiautonomous province in the Leopoldville area. The Abako move appears to have been prompted in part by chagrin that a rival party gained a slim majority in the present provincial assembly.

In Katanga Province, there is increasing sentiment for a dissolution of all ties with the Congo. A boycott of the Katanga assembly by the minority Balubakat party has kept attendance below the two-thirds quorum necessary before the majority Conakat party can organize the assembly. Subsequently, Conakat spokesmen have threatened action ranging from an appeal to the UN to the formation of a separate government if the requirement for a two-thirds quorum is not amended by the Belgians. Belgian authorities, taking cognizance of rumors of separatist moves, declared a state of emergency in Katanga on 14 June.

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